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STATE DOCUMENTS

AUG 17 1970

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
VETERANS WELFARE COMMISSION

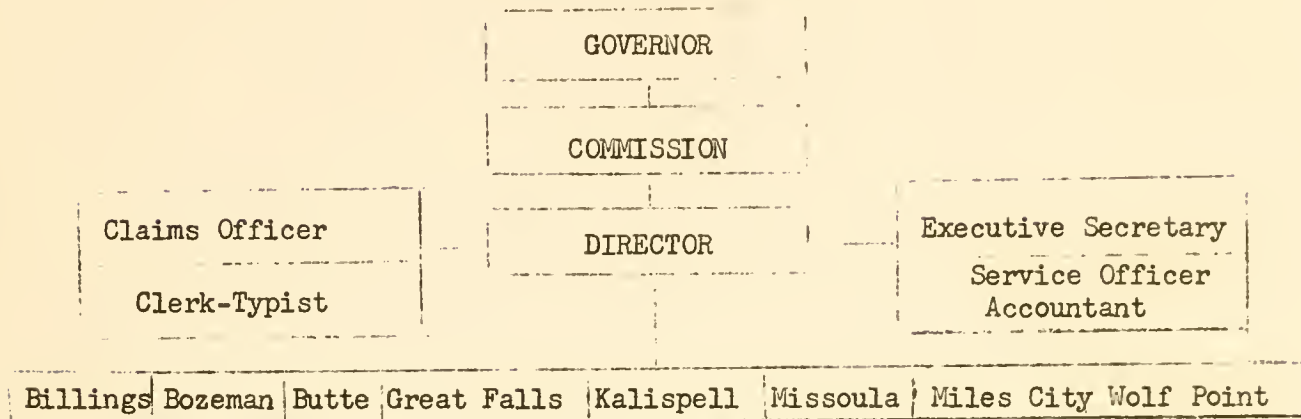
TO THE
GOVERNOR OF MONTANA
HONORABLE FORREST H. ANDERSON

FOR THE
PERIOD OF
12-1-68 to 7-1-69

MONTANA VETERANS' WELFARE COMMISSION

12-1-68 to 7-1-69

ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION

- | | | | |
|---------------------|----------|-------------------|-------------|
| 1. Leslie Eskildsen | Malta | 3. Charles Lelek | Lewistown |
| 2. William Hardie | Billings | 4. Kenneth Leslie | Great Falls |
| 5. Russell Lindborg | Missoula | | |

DIRECTOR

HARRY E. SAWYER

State Office Personnel

- | | | |
|---------------------|------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. Ethel S. Trenary | 2. W. Wm. Hildenbrandt | 3. David W. Armstrong, Jr. |
| 4. Marie Hinman | | |

SERVICE OFFICERS

- | | | | |
|---------------------|-------------|-------------------------|------------|
| 1. Edward J. Kilzer | Billings | 5. Albert A. Miron | Kalispell |
| 2. Robert J. Ruhl | Bozeman | 6. William R. Heikkinen | Missoula |
| 3. William M. Daley | Butte | 7. Harvey A. Milton | Miles City |
| 4. Ruddy R. Reilly | Great Falls | 8. George F. Loucks | Wolf Point |

STENOGRAPHERS

- | | | | |
|---------------------|-------------|------------------------|------------|
| 1. Ruth Mittelstadt | Billings | 5. Arlene Soderstrom | Kalispell |
| 2. Evelyn Hayes | Bozeman | 6. Cheryl Lee | Missoula |
| 3. Ruth Boyle | Butte | 7. Judith Sprandel | Miles City |
| 4. Roxie Krause | Great Falls | 8. Montana J. Langager | Wolf Point |

Prior to the Fiscal Year 1970 the Veterans Welfare Commission made biennial reports. The report immediately previous to this report was for the period December 1, 1966 to December 1, 1968. This present report is for the period December 1, 1968 to July 1, 1969. The period July 1, 1969 to July 1, 1970 is contained in a separate report.

During the period December 1, 1968 to July 1, 1969 the monetary benefits the Veterans Welfare Commission assisted veterans and their dependents in obtaining from the Veterans Administration amounted to \$1,029,117.09.

Any claimant, veteran, widow, parent, or orphan must file the proper claim with the Veterans Administration. This can be a claim for compensation, pension, educational benefits, or for a home loan. In the period covered by this report the Veterans Welfare Commission filed 1939 of these claims.

The Veterans Welfare Commission aids these claimants by assisting in completing the proper forms correctly. In order to present a proper claim to the Veterans Administration many must be accompanied by marital documents. When necessary the Veterans Welfare Commission Service Officers obtain official copies of marriage certificates, birth certificates, death certificates, and divorce decrees. In the period covered by this report we obtained and filed 2234 of these documents.

In addition the Veterans Welfare Commission represents a claimant with the Veterans Administration on any applied for benefit. As an attorney represents a client in a court of law. The Veterans Welfare Commission, when given the proper "Power of Attorney," represents claimants before the Veterans Administration. In the period covered by this report 1753 individuals

requested that we represent them. Altogether over 30,000 veterans or dependents have asked us to represent them on their claims by signing VA Form 23-22.

The Veterans Administration as an agency of the Federal Government has the duty of administering veterans benefits. None of these benefits are automatically given as all must be applied for. There are only three Veterans Administration Contact Officers in Montana-two at Fort Harrison and one at Miles City. In addition the Veterans of Foreign Wars and the Disabled American Veterans each have one Service Officer at Fort Harrison. It would be impossible for these individuals to assist eligible veterans or dependents in many localities in this state who wish to apply. This is the reason for the existence and mission of the Veterans Welfare Commission offices in nine cities of the State of Montana.

There are now approximately 96,000 veterans of service in the Armed Forces of the United States now residing in Montana. All are potential applicants for some Veterans Administration benefit, but many will never need to apply for any.

The appropriation for fiscal year 1968-1969 as allocated by the 1967 Legislative Assembly is:

FY 1968-1969 \$151,600.00

With the carry over from FY 1967-1968, the funds for FY 1968-1969 amount to \$157,647.41

The expenses from December 1968, through June 1969, are:

| | |
|--------------------------|-------------|
| Salaries and Wages | \$67,941.42 |
| Employee Benefits | 5,893.69 |
| Supplies and Materials | 524.93 |
| Communications | 2,755.32 |
| Utilities | 63.86 |
| Travel | 9,308.63 |
| Contracted Services | 5,428.80 |
| Special Fees | 350.00 |
| Repairs and Maintenance | 151.40 |
| Capital | 410.90 |
| Aid to Veterans | 209.95 |
| | <hr/> |
| Total | \$93,038.90 |
| Returned to General Fund | \$ 5,130.00 |

